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him a running picture of the country and the life by the way. Strange to say, a part of the territory traversed is so little known that some of the observations and the map at the end of the volume constitute the first definite geographical knowledge we have for the region around the headwaters of the Kuskokwim.

A few straggling Indians from the interior were encountered near the head of the Kuskokwim, but the author had neither the time nor the linguistic equipment to gather much information as to their culture. When about 275 miles from the sea the first Eskimo village (Sikmiut) was observed. From a brief observation, supplemented by collecting, the author found the culture here to be mixed with that of the Indians farther inland. Also he thought he could detect both types in the physical features of the inhabitants. As the journey proceeded to the sea, five other villages were visited, but these the author considers pure Eskimo.

An appendix of eighty pages contains some data for traveling on the Kuskokwim and in Alaska which will no doubt be useful to future visitors to the country. This is followed by a general discussion of the population of Alaska. It is to be regretted that the author does not discuss the data returned by the census of 1910, particularly that for the region he traversed, for this would have given us a check upon at least one geographical unit. There is, however, a very satisfactory digest of the Kuskokwim culture illustrated by many plates of specimens collected on the journey.

A brief vocabulary closes the volume. Besides its many other estimable qualities this volume gives one a clear picture of the environmental conditions surrounding Eskimo culture in the Alaskan river deltas.

CLARK WISSLER

#### ASIA

*Aboriginal Siberia, A Study in Social Anthropology.* M. A. CZAPLICKA, Somerville College, Oxford. With a Preface by R. R. MARETT, Reader in Social Anthropology in the University of Oxford. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1914. 8vo, pp. xvi, 376, 16 pls. \$5.60.

Though this book was issued several years ago, it has somehow eluded the notice of reviewers in this country, but a belated comment seems better than none. Miss Czaplicka was one of the many students who derived inspiration from Dr. Marett's anthropological teaching, and the present work was undertaken at his suggestion prior to a year's trip to Siberia. It is best characterized as a painstaking compilation by an enthusiastic novice. A Pole by birth and conversant with the Russian

language, the author has rendered accessible a considerable amount of valuable material that would otherwise have remained wholly unknown to non-Slavic anthropologists. Her method of presentation does not invite continuous reading, but as a work of reference its usefulness cannot be doubted, especially for those who are obliged to contend with mediocre library facilities. For Miss Czaplicka does not limit herself to Slavic publications, but endeavors to present a complete account of non-material Siberian culture on the basis of all published material.

While Miss Czaplicka's essay must be hailed with pleasure, there are, however, certain obvious deficiencies which one hopes to see remedied in supplementary publications since second editions seem beyond the range of possibility nowadays. The material culture of northern Asia is singularly replete with interesting information and suggestive problems, which might at least have been sketched in an introductory chapter without undue expansion of the volume. A more serious fault results from the compiler's naiveté in ethnographical matters, or it may be from her lack of interest in the subject of historical connections. For example, she mentions and briefly characterizes the Whale festival of the Koryak (p. 295), but she does not specifically point out the historical significance of its dominant features. It is also not clear why so important a topic as aboriginal literature is ignored. Here again the subject-matter has an extraordinary intrinsic interest, as readers of Radloff's *Aus Sibirien* will recall, while the historico-ethnic problems involved are of tremendous importance. It is also to be regretted that Miss Czaplicka does not take a definite stand on the question of American-Asiatic connections, a subject brought prominently before the anthropological public since the Jesup Expedition. Finally, the publishers may be implored to provide for more adequate maps in future publications of similar scope; this deficiency unfortunately is shared by too many ethnological works of larger scope, definitely detracting from their value.

The foregoing remarks are not offered in the way of carping criticism but in order to define the character of the book from the anthropologist's point of view. It is distinctly a meritorious compilation of raw material, but the specialist must not expect from it an integrated picture of Siberian culture.

ROBERT H. LOWIE

### SOME NEW PUBLICATIONS

Balfour, Henry. Some Ethnological Suggestions in regard to Easter Island or Rapanui. (Folk-Lore, XXVIII, 1917, pp. 356-381.)

Hague, Eleanor. Spanish-American Folk-Songs (Memoirs of the American Folk-Lore Society, vol. X). \$3.50, to members \$3.00.